

THE

WASHINGTON

REVIEW

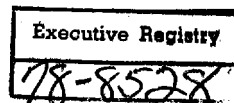
OF STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

5004.01 / The Washington Review

Approved For Release 2004/10/28 : CIA-RDP88-01314R000300310010-8

Herb *Alert* *Sfm*

February 16, 1978



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Dear Ray:

I think it is time for The Washington Review to take a serious look at the current problems facing the intelligence community, and it strikes me that the best way to do this would be to get the views of the five former heads of the CIA. Since you are an alumnus, I would be grateful if you would raise the question with Messrs. McCone, Schlesinger, Colby, Bush and Helms.

There are basically three ways in which we could approach the problem:

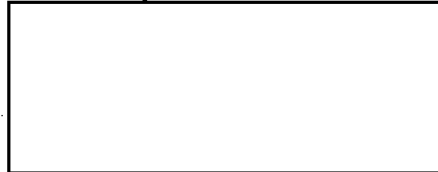
- We could submit written questions;
- Interviews could be done with each person;
- We could do a round-table discussion, at which all five would be present, along with a "Master of Ceremonies". You are the obvious choice for Master of Ceremonies.

My own preference is for the round-table, because this is the most spontaneous format, and also because contrasts would emerge most clearly in a discussion. Obviously, we would guarantee every participant the right to edit his own text, and we would certainly not publish anything without permission. But it does seem to me that at least four of these gentlemen (I would be surprised if Secretary Schlesinger could participate) might agree with us that this problem requires serious and responsible analysis. I hope that The Washington Review has the kind of credentials that would appeal to these former directors of the CIA.

Would you be kind enough to raise this question with them? There is no great rush, for I would hope to publish it in the Winter issue, and consequently we will not need a final text until the beginning of November.

Thank you very much for your help.

Warmly,



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